(c) Sir, Govt. have only disinvested some if its equity holdings.

(d) Does not arise.

Memorandum submitted by FICCI

1463. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA; Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation from the FICCI have recently submitted a Memorandum to the Prime Minister containing some suggestions for bet terment of the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The suggestions made are for making efforts towards faster employment generation, improvement in the standard of living of common man and quick and quantum jump in ecnoomic growth. These goals are proposed to be achieved by way of increase in agricultural produc tivity_ speedy development of agro-processing industries, floriculture; horticulture, tourism, small-scale industries, infrastructure and expenditure on R . D. The Memorandum also suggests reforms in the judicial land labour fiscal and financial sectors and more initiatives at the State level.

Creation of favourable circumstances for survival of tiny and informal stetor

1464 SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are cre. ating favourable circumstances for the tiny and informal sector In in. dustry to survive in the present li beralised regime;

(b) if so, the. steps taken to assist the tiny and informal sector;

(c) whether Government propose to set up regional technology centres to facilitate transfer of technology to the tiny, small and informal sector; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAMl); (a) and (b) The policy of the Government is to encourage the growth of the tiny including the informal sector through measures designed to increase its competitive strength. A number of steps have been taken subsequent to announcement of policy of liberalisation towards this end such as enhancement in the limit of plant and machinery in res_ pect of tiny units from Rs. 2 lakhs IO Rs. 5 lakhs irrespective of the location of the unit, • inclusion of business and industry related services as tiny units. Further, the distinction between registered and un_ registered units for the purpose of availing of concession under the General Excise Exemption Scheme for SSI Sector has been done away with. However, the primary responsibility for the development of small scale including tiny informal sector rests with the State Governments. The Central Governmint only supplements their efforts in this regard. Most of the States/Union Territories have announced their Industrial Policies with special incentives/facilities in favour of small, tiny and informal sector.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal at present with the Central Government for setting up Regional Tech_ nology Centres for the tiny, Small and informal sector. However, the Small Industries Service Institutes located in various States of the Country and the Regional Testing Centres provide a wide range of consultancy services like techno-economic/ managerial common facility services, tooling testing and other types of

services to the existing small scale industries as well as prospective entrepreneurs. Khadi and Village Industries Commission has also set up Technology Research Centres in various parts of the country.

Steps to help employees of PSUs to avail voluntary retirement

1465. SHRI V. HANUMANTHAP. PA RAO: Will the PRIME MINIS, TER be pleased to state;

(a) whether any new initiatives are being taken to help the employees of public sector units to apply for voluntary retirement;

(b) whether it is a fact that too many procedural obstacles are in the way for employees to take full advantage of various voluntary re. tirement schemes;

(c) whether there is any monitor ing body to clear applications for voluntary retirement in all Public Sector Units; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (d) The Voluntary Retirement Schemes are to be adopted by the PSEs who have manpower surplus to their requirement. Applications received from the employees opting for voluntary retirement have to be processed by the management of each PSE as expeditiously as possible. Procedure for processing these applications is to be evolved by the PSEs themselves. There is no proposal under the consideration of the Government to constitute a monitoring body to clear applications for voluntary retirement in all PSEs.

Selling of Mandya National Paper Mill to private sector

1466. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Mandya National Paper Mill, Mysore is likely to be sold to the private sector on 'as is where is' basis;

(b) if so, the reasons for which it cannot be made profitable and the future of its 1,000 employees. which is at stake at present, sofeguarded;

(c) the accumulated losses suffered by this Paper Mill, as per the latest information; and

(d) whether the Prime Minister wrote a letter to the Karnataka Chief Minister also and if so, what is the possibility of the State taking it over?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c) Mandya National Paper Mills Ltd. is a sick unit referred to BIFR. The accumulated losses as on 31.3 1994 amounted to Rs. 101.94 crores. In January, 1994 BIFR reached *a* prima fecie conclusion that the com-palny has become unviable and it was not possible to rehabilitate it and it was therefore Just and equi. table and in public interest that the company should be wound up. However, the final decision of BIFR is awaited.

(d) Yes, Sir. The State Govern_ment-ment has since submitted to BIFR their readiness to grant certain ten, cessions/reliefs only for the revival of the company and suggested that the Operating Agency he asked to look into the rehabilitation proposal keepng in view the fresh concessions proposed to be extended by the State GOVERNMENT.